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In the outstanding Office Action, claims 7 to 12 were presented for examination. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 8. Claims 7 to 12 were rejected on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable in view of references to Lau et al. in view of Bawel.

The Office Action has been most carefully studied. In this amendment applicant has canceled claim 8 without prejudice, and has added new claim 13 more particularly pointing out the invention. Accordingly, as will be discussed in detail below, it is believed that the application is clearly in condition for allowance.

Request for Entry under 37 CFR §1.116

The Office Action has been most carefully studied. In this amendment the claims have been amended to overcome the objections raised, and the rejection made, as explained hereinbelow. No new issues are raised, the number of claims has not been increased and the amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better condition for consideration on appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested.

New Claim 13

New claim 13 is a rewriting of claim 8 made pursuant to the indications of allowability kindly made in the Office action. New Claim 13 is believed clearly allowable and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103 Unpatentability

Turning now to the rejection of claims 7 and 9-13 as unpatentable over Lau et al. in view of Bawel, Zimmermann and Giacometti, applicant respectfully notes that the

patentable distinctions these claims have over the references were clearly pointed out in the remarks made in the amendment filed April 1, 2004. These meaningful remarks which clearly explain the lack of relevance of the references of record, even when considered in combination have not been rebutted by the Office. Accordingly, allowance of claims 7 and 9-12, which have already been allowed once (on May 20, 2003), is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

Base claim 7 is directed to a system for producing cold by absorption, which comprises, *inter alia*, an absorber. As admitted by the Office, the primary reference does not include an absorber, which is not surprising as the Lau et al. patents relate to compression cooling systems. It is well known in the art that compression cooling systems and absorption cooling systems are quite different kinds of cooling systems to which different economic and engineering considerations apply. Absorption coolers typically employ two different fluids, a refrigerant and an absorbent that have a high affinity for one another, one dissolving in the other. Heat is then applied to separate the refrigerant as a gas. In contrast, compression cooling transforms the refrigerant from the gaseous to the liquid phase by mechanical compression. Notwithstanding these differences, the Office argues that one skilled in the art would import Lau et al.'s quick cooling compression techniques into Bawel's absorption cooling system.

It is applicant's position that one skilled in the art would not attempt to use compression cooling features in an absorption cooling system, and that claim 7 is believed clearly patentable for this reason alone. Claim 7 is believed furthermore patentable because no combination of Lau et al. and Bawel will provide the subject matter of applicant's claim 7. In addition to an absorber not disclosed in Lau et al., claim 7 requires that:

"the upstream valve (3) is passing when the pressure upstream is greater than or equal to the pressure downstream".

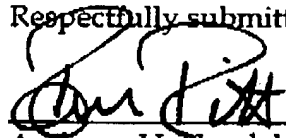
Lau et al. does not disclose such a valve. Lau's upstream valve 206 is not pressure responsive, but is closed when the compressor 201 is turned off (column 2, lines 60-61). Consequently, were Lau et al.'s upstream valve to be tried in an absorption cooling system it would fail to provide the benefit of using residual pressure in the system to charge the receiver after shut down, because, unlike the valve employed in claim 7, Lau et al.'s valve would be closed.

Thus, Claim 7 is believed clearly patentable over the references of record and early allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 9-12 which depend from claim 7 or recite corresponding features are also believed allowable for the reasons that claim 7 is believed allowable.

In view of the above amendments and the discussion relating thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's representative would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, they are invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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